

Atty. Docket No. YOR920000167US1
(590.013)

REMARKS

Please note the fact that June 26, 2004, fell on a Saturday when the Office was closed ensures this paper is timely filed as of today, Monday, June 28, 2004.

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

There appears to be one objection to the disclosure concerning the reference to the commonly assigned application incorporated by reference. The paragraph in which this reference appears has been amended to recite the application serial number assigned to the commonly assigned application. *See* MPEP 608.01(p) Thus, it is believed this objection has been obviated.

Claims 1-19 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Claims 1, 9-11, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Talmore et al. Claims 3-8 and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) also over Talmore et al. Claims 1, 9-10, and 18-19 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are hereby respectfully requested.

The rejections appear to be based upon a misunderstanding of the Talmore et al. reference. As best understood, in Talmore et al. authentication is performed by computing a distortion quantity between a temporary voiceprint created from a test

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sample and a set of stored voiceprint models. The authentication decision is made solely on the best matching model from the database. Talmore et al. thus teaches calculating distortion and choosing the model with minimum such distortion.

The Office also repeatedly cites Column 10, lines 11-29, and Figure 4 of Talmore et al. as relevant to determining a weight vector. Applicants respectfully submit the cited portions of Talmore et al. have no technical relevance to the problem of scores, weighting, etc., as the cited portions are related to front-end processing/feature extraction. As such, the applied portions of Talmore et al. are of no relevance to the present claims.

As presently written, Independent Claims 1, 9, 10, 18, and 19 all recite the use of a "background discriminant" and determining a "score" based, *inter alia*, on the "background discriminant". As discussed in the present application, the discriminant for the background class is preferably a target-dependent function of individual voiceprint-based discriminants in the background population, which individual discriminants are inherent in background population models. Thus, several background population models preferably assist in serving as input into the background discriminant function, as well as weights. (Page 8, lines 4-8) It is respectfully submitted that, at a minimum, Talmore et al. discloses or teaches these features. As such, Talmore et al. does not anticipate the present invention under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), nor is the present invention obvious over Talmore et al. under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

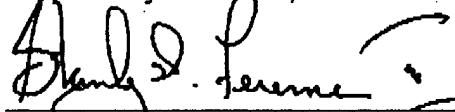
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-19 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus in condition for allowance.

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The "prior art made of record" has been reviewed. Applicants acknowledge that such prior art was not deemed by the Office to be sufficiently relevant to have been applied against the claims of the instant application. To the extent that the Office may apply such prior art against the claims in the future, Applicants will be fully prepared to respond thereto.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-19, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited. In the unlikely event the Office does not agree the application is in condition for allowance, the Office is invited to call the undersigned to discuss the claims prior to the issuance of a second Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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